

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES

INTRODUCTION

HANDOUTS

GROUP GUIDE

NOVEL CHOICE IDEAS



DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

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WHAT IS A DYSTOPIA?

- A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive society control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through some sort of outside means, such as:
 - Government control
 - Corporate control
 - Technological control
 - Totalitarian/Dictatorship
- Dystopias, though fictional and imaginative, use worst case scenarios to make a criticism about current trends, political issues, or problems in society.
- A Dystopia is the opposite of a Utopia, which is a place that is perfect in respect to laws, politics, customs, and conditions. In a Utopia, there are no problems like war, oppression, discrimination, etc.

DYSTOPIAN PROTAGONISTS

- Often feel trapped and are struggling to escape.
- Has questions about the existing social and political systems.
- Believes that there is something terribly wrong with the society in which they live.
- Helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.

WHAT IS A DYSTOPIA?



DYSTOPIAN PROTAGONISTS



CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

1: PROPAGANDA

- Propaganda: information of a biased or misleading nature.
- Propaganda is used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view, and used to control citizens of a society.



**I WANT YOU
FOR U.S. ARMY**

NEAREST RECRUITING STATION



**PATRIOTISM
MEANS
NO QUESTIONS**

**A MESSAGE FROM
THE MINISTRY OF
HOMELAND SECURITY**

NOTHING TO HIDE



NOTHING TO FEAR

COOPERATE AND OBEY

WE ARE WATCHING



***IT CAN HAPPEN
HERE!***



**SO LET'S
NUKE'M FIRST**



CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

2: RESTRICTIONS

- Information, independent thought, and freedom are controlled or restricted.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

3: CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE

- Citizens perceive that they are under constant surveillance.
- Someone is always watching, via cameras or spies

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

4: FEAR OF OUTSIDE WORLD

- Citizens fear the world outside the boundaries of their country or area.
- Even if allowed to, citizens would likely not leave.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

5: DEHUMANIZED

- Citizens live in a dehumanized state
- Elements of dehumanization can vary:
 - Living without love
 - Living without basic needs being met
 - Living with too much technology

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

6: CONFORMITY

- Citizens conform to universal expectations
- Individuality, or being different in any way, is bad.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

7: UTOPIAN ILLUSION

- The society is the illusion of the perfect utopian world.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

1: PROPAGANDA

2: RESTRICTIONS

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

3: CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE

4: FEAR OF OUTSIDE WORLD

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

5: DEHUMANIZATION

6: CONFORMITY

7: UTOPIAN ILLUSION

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

As you read, take note of how the novel illustrates the characteristics of dystopian literature. Record quotes, examples, and page numbers in the space provided.

1: PROPAGANDA

2: RESTRICTIONS

3: CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE

4: FEAR OF OUTSIDE WORLD

5: DEHUMANIZATION

6: CONFORMITY

7: UTOPIAN ILLUSION

DYSTOPIAN CONTROL

Which type of Dystopian control do you think is used in the novel, corporate, government, technology, or totalitarian/dictatorship? Choose one. Provide evidence from the story that supports your decision, and explain your reasoning.

TYPE:

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY:

EXPLANATION:

DYSTOPIAN PROTAGONISTS

Re-read the characteristics of Dystopian protagonists. Identify one characteristic that can be seen in the protagonist of your novel.

Name the characteristic, list the evidence from the story that supports your choice, and explain your reasoning.

TYPE:

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY:

EXPLANATION:

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES

For the next three weeks, we will be completing a literature circle based assignment relating to Dystopian literature. Every second day, you will meet with your group to discuss your novel. When you are not meeting, you will be required to read your novel and complete your assigned jobs - completing your jobs will help your to be prepared for each group meeting. You also have a few sheets included in your package that you will need to complete independently while you read.

Below is a list of each of the jobs. You may assign the jobs in any way you choose, but you need to make sure you complete each job at least one time during the course of the unit.

Discussion Director: This person is responsible for writing down 5 thought provoking questions for the purpose of group discussion, based on the assigned reading for the day. As director, you are responsible for keeping the discussion going, making sure assignments have been completed, and rating the group's work habits at the end of each meeting.

Literary Luminary: This person is responsible for choosing parts of the story that should be read aloud to the group. The idea is to review with your group some of the interesting, powerful, puzzling, or important sections of the text. After reading the sections aloud, this student must also justify why they chose each section.

Summarizer: This student is responsible for creating a summary of the assigned reading. The summarizer will give the group a 2-3 minute summary of the text at the start of each group meeting.

Connector: The job of this student is to find connections between the novel and the outside world. This means making clear text to text, text to self, and text to world connections, and sharing them with the group.

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES PLANNING SHEET

GROUP MEMBERS:

MEETING #: _____

GROUP ROLES:

**DISCUSSION
DIRECTOR:**

**LITERARY
LUMINARY:**

SUMMARIZER:

CONNECTOR:

MEETING #: _____

GROUP ROLES:

**DISCUSSION
DIRECTOR:**

**LITERARY
LUMINARY:**

SUMMARIZER:

CONNECTOR:

MEETING #: _____

GROUP ROLES:

**DISCUSSION
DIRECTOR:**

**LITERARY
LUMINARY:**

SUMMARIZER:

CONNECTOR:

MEETING #: _____

GROUP ROLES:

DISCUSSION DIRECTOR:	LITERARY LUMINARY:	SUMMARIZER:	CONNECTOR:
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MEETING #: _____

GROUP ROLES:

DISCUSSION DIRECTOR:	LITERARY LUMINARY:	SUMMARIZER:	CONNECTOR:
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MEETING #: _____

GROUP ROLES:

DISCUSSION DIRECTOR:	LITERARY LUMINARY:	SUMMARIZER:	CONNECTOR:
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MEETING #: _____

GROUP ROLES:

DISCUSSION DIRECTOR:	LITERARY LUMINARY:	SUMMARIZER:	CONNECTOR:
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DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES DISCUSSION DIRECTOR

NAME:

NOVEL:

DATE:

PAGES READ TO PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION:

Your job is to develop a list of questions that your group may want to discuss about the assigned reading. Usually, the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings, and concerns as you read. You may choose to list these as you read, or after you have completed the assigned reading. These should be thought provoking questions - no yes and no answers!

1:

2:

3:

4:

5:

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES

LITERARY LUMINARY

NAME:

NOVEL:

DATE:

PAGES READ TO PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION:

Your job is to locate a few special sections or quotations in the text for your group to discuss. During the meeting, you will need to read each passage aloud, and discuss your reasons for choosing it.

PAGE:
PASSAGE:

REASON FOR CHOOSING:

PAGE:
PASSAGE:

REASON FOR CHOOSING:

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES SUMMARIZER

NAME:

NOVEL:

DATE:

PAGES READ TO PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION:

**Your job is to prepare a brief summary of your assigned reading section.
At the start of the meeting, you will read your summary aloud.**

SUMMARY:

KEY POINTS OR EVENTS:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES CONNECTOR

NAME:

NOVEL:

DATE:

PAGES READ TO PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION:

Your job is to find connections between the novel being read and the outside world. These can be text to text, text to self, or text to world connections. Make three connections to today's assigned reading, and write about and explain them in the space below.

CONNECTION #1

CONNECTION #2

CONNECTION #3

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES WORK HABIT EVALUATION

GROUP MEMBERS:

NOVEL:

DATE:

MEMBER	WAS THE STUDENT PREPARED?
Discussion Director:	YES NO Comments:
Literary Luminary:	YES NO Comments:
Summarizer:	YES NO Comments:
Connector:	YES NO Comments:

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE CIRCLES NOVEL CHOICE IDEAS

Some great novel choices for Dystopian Literature Circles!

The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins

Catching Fire - Suzanne Collins

Mockingjay - Suzanne Collins

Unwind - Neal Shusterman

The City of Ember - Jeanne Duprau

The Selection - Kiera Cass

Brave New World - Aldous Huxley

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

The Mazerunner - James Dashner

Legend - Marie Lu

1984 - George Orwell

Uglies - Scott Westerfeld

Divergent - Veronica Roth

Matched - Ally Condie

Delirium - Lauren Oliver

The Giver - Lois Lowry

Thank you so much for downloading this package of activities. I hope you are able to make good use of it in your classroom! If you get a chance, please provide some feedback on it at Teachers Pay Teachers.

Visit my Teachers Pay Teachers store for numerous ready to use units and lessons for English, Social Studies, and Art! I also frequently post free items!

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